MASTER PLAYERS IN POKER CLASH

Misunderstanding Between Jim Blaisdell and the One Eyed Man.

By DAVID A. CURTIS.

No phase of the peril involved in playing poker is more familiar to those who have had much experience in the game than that which is presented when two of the contestants play in collusion. Minds trained in mathematics have wrestled with the problems of percentage and permutation that are involved in the legitimate progress of events at the poker table, and have succeeded in formulating solutions to all of these, so that any one who studies the subject sufficiently can caluculate his chances in any emergency of the game with considerable accuracy, provided he can be assured that no skullduggery is going on. But no finite mind is capable of reckoning the percentage on anything when the element of chance is eliminated so completely as it is by the intreduction of partnership among those who participate in the contests between players, which contests give all the zest there is in the game itself.

poker as a pastime partnership play is unthinkable. Among those who make it a pursuit it is different. One of the facts seldom vaunted but generally understood is that professional poker players, such as were formerly to be found on almost any one of the Mississippi River packets, frequently did form alliances of an unholy character, and by playing in cahoots with each other enhance their profits

greatly.

The formation of these alliances was not advertised by the partners themselves. Indeed, the mere statement that it existed, if made in the presence of either one of them, was held to be a personal insult

When the one eyed man went to Arkansas City, as he sometimes did, though infrequently and at irregular intervals, he was accustomed to depart therefrom somewhat suddenly. On one such occasion, of which mention has been made in a preceding story, his exit was very precipitate. Only by violent exertion was he enabled to reach the boat that was just leaving in time to avoid the attentions that some of the citizens were trying

to force upon him.

As for him, he seemed well content o forego the demonstration of sentiment they desired to make, but three of those citizens, Joe Bassett, Jake Winterbottom and Sam Pearsall, were vidently disappointed by their failure o express their esteem for him in a satisfactory to themselves and as if to relieve their feelings they fred a salute in honor of his departure, with small arms. So enthusiastic were they, in fact, that he narrowly number of shots that they fired.

There was considerable mirth exing, as was his wont, and resuming

He had never had a side partner eing self-reliant to a degree, and skilul enough to achieve great success

players. Jim Blaisdell by name, was boats as hunting grounds. He made no proclamation of his purpose, being s little prone to explanations as One Eye himself, but he sat in from time to time, as opportunities offered, ap-parently unconscious of the interest his advent aroused among the fraternity of professionals, for he was a player of no less renown than One Eye himself.

That interest was very great. So great was it in fact that some of the core curious observers were moved to inquire of Mr. Owen Pepper whether Mr. Blaisdell had severed his relations with old man Greenlaw, a noted character who kept a still more noted rert in Arkansas City where Mr. Blaisdell had long been accustomed to play. "Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper "They was somepin' said afo' hell broke loose when One Eye come into the s'loon, the last time I was thar. Mebbe it didn't mean nothin', an' then again mebbe it did. Anyways, I reckon they's liable fo' to be somepin' diddin'

if him an' One Eye meets up." "What was it was said?" inquired one who seemed to find the answer to the first question too vague to

any landing place until at length he harded the Pride of the River at Natchez, and entering the main saloon of the hoat shortly before midnight he found a game of poker in progress there in which One Eye was playing.

No sign of recognition passed between them. Blaisdell looked on at the game for a time as if only slightly interested, but when one of the playing was the dawsgonedes might enough to him to strike, an' they he said: "I reckon I'll set in if they hard to be the sind; and everybody in the sroup looked at One Eye. All

could not predicate anything from his with e'ter this."

play with a foe as with a friend if the had had a friend, but they expected the game would not they expected silence, for they knew he would as lief the game would have greater interest from that time on. For Blaisdell took his seat and, producing a goodly wad, bought chips.

Shortly thereafter Mr. Blaisdell won a considerable pot on One Eye's deal and one of the other players hastily Examples of Plays by Which quitted the game. There was nothing said, but One Eye looked at him darkly as if intending to start something in case any comment was made and seemed more or less disappointed when the retiring gamester walked away in

He was followed by one of the by standers, who after they had reached to come to THE SUN with regard to the

"Well," said the other, "I cashed in long o' the cashin' in bein still good. If I'd a played along a spell they wouldn't a been none 's fur 's I was concerned. When One Eye gives a the contract on the same basis as the swinnin' hand to anybody but hisself, winning bid at five hundred. In that

A similar feeling of distrust was

been looking on at the game, and this was greatly strengthened when on Blaisdell's deal One Eye held cards which proved to be better at the showdown than those held by any one else.
"I don't mind takin' most any kyind of a chanst at poker," observed one exceptionally bold player when the matter was discussed afterward. "I'll set in with One Eye in the game, or I'll set in with Blaisdell, or I'll set in when they's any other two men playin' to-gether, and I'll reckon on holdin' my own, even if I don't win no gre't, but th' ain't no man livin' what c'n play ag'in them two if they is a onderstandin' betwixt 'em. If they is done hitched

up they ain't no chanst fo' to be

ooken, an' I ain't gwine fo' to take it." From that time on the doings of the wo master players, for they were acgame, were observed minutely by hrewd speculators who followed the same line of endeavor in which they excelled. Not only was there a spirit of emulation in the observers, who one and all admired them as greatly as they hated them, so that there was a hope of discovering some new and valuable method of play, but there was ilso an expectation and even a hope that there would be a clash between the two sooner or later, in which case something of great interest would

So far as the observers could dis cover the two men never met exceptng at the poker table when a game was in progress. If indeed there was an understanding between them it was evidently so complete as not to require discussion. Their play was therefore scrutinized carefully for indications which would betray them to their rivals, but only one was ever discovered This pointed to a method so simple and so bold as to rouse much criticism from some, while it commanded the admiration of others.

They never exchanged words, an cited among the spectators of the so far as could be seen no signals event. One Eye, however, said nothseesaw play, for it was seldom that the uneven tenor of his ways went on both entered a contest for any particu-playing poker with any and all who lar pot and never for any considerable

It could not be learned that there was ever any division of spoils between them. Neither could anybody detect evidence that either one of them His visit to Arkansas City was looked was guilty of crooked dealing, but this pon as one of his erraticisms, and the last provoked no comment, for it was ecollection of it among his associates known to all that the skill of each of would have faded away in time had them was so great as to defy detection. It not been for subsequent events. It was assumed as a matter of course Soon after he had come away from that either one of them could deal any the one town on the river in which cards he chose to any player in the

river boats, one of the Arkansas City | neither of them as a rule won anything on his own deal when both were suddenly discovered among the players in the game, each of them would generally win when the other deaft. Aside from that nothing showed collusion needed. And the two prospered greatly for a while.

> pression in Arkansas City. Poker was still played in the back room of old man Greenlaw's saloon with fairly satisfactory results to everybody excepting such strangers as sometimes sat in, but something seemed lacking. The old man expressed it fairly well when

"This yer game with Blaisdell not into it is some like drinkin' b'iled whiskey. Th' aint no bite to it, an' the flavor is diff'rent, some way." Then Mr. Pepper called in one eveing. They asked him if Blaisdell was

likely to return. 'pears to be some question o' whether he'll git out again. The doctor says twon't be fo' a month or two any-

Whar is he?" asked the old man. "Oh. I don't know." said Mr. Pepper "He was c'nsid'able cut up, but I didn't hear rothin' bout him bein' sick. They

thereafter they did.

Blaisdell had gone from boat to boat as frequently as he could change at any landing place until at length he hoarded the Pride of the River at least the land he had deal."

In the landing had like we was all marking B with the king.

B led four rounds of diamonds, Y discarding a spade and a heart, Z a heart. When dummy led the Jack of clubs, covered by the queen and ace, Z

the enmity that had long ex- 'em had a chanst, sich as 'twas." "Well," said the old man, "I reckon But One Eye said nothing. They Jim 'll be mo' p'tic'lar who he 'sociates

the Expert Wins or Saves the Game.

By R. F. FOSTER.

a figure in the result as it does now.

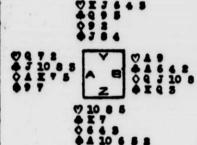
One of the latest proposals is to put down, in many cases still the contract on the same basis as the talking of the last hand. swinnin' hand to anybody but hisself, it's nigh 'bout time fo' others to pull out, so I done pulled."

"Mebbe it just happened thataway," suggested the curious one.

"Happened heil!" was the prefane reply. "They don't nothin' happen when One Eye has the deal. He does it his own self." trumps and makes a grand slam he gets othing for the extra tricks.

It would be rather interesting to see roused in the minds of others who had what the result would be if the bidder in auction could not score anything beyond his contract. A player who got the winning declaration with one spade and made a grand slam would probably feel rather chagrined if he got only nine points for it. That form of the game might become popular some day, but

went game on the hand except one. The natural inference was that the declarer must have slipped up somewhere, but such was not the case. It was the unusual character of the de-fence that beat him. At every table the same chance had been offered. Only the crack player at table No. 4 saw it and took it. Here is the distribution:



At most of the tables Z passed, the spade not being a legitimate declaration on the first round. A bid a diamond and at some tables Y bid the heart, mond and at some tables Y bid the heart, but in all cases B went to no trumps.

If Y has bid hearts, anticipating the no trumper by B after A has shown the diamonds, he not only gains nothing by it but makes it easy for B to win four by cards. Y's cards are not strong enough to ask for a lead against a notrumper. There is not a single sure trick in his hand.

When the heart was Md and led the

The was crisid able cut up, our identify the properties of the first question too vague to the first question too vague to tailty have given the heart on this properties of the first question too vague to tailty how he done put it, but One Eye said some put the many and they was given to put him and the partner, long o' nobody not playin' as sich garnes's he played his own self, or said they was crisidable character, and the properties of t

chance, but it is a case of never up never in, and it is an excellent illustration of the style of play that entitles against a pat flush; only 254 to 1 against the expert to that 100 points bonus that a pat straight.

on; all he can make is two more tricks, the ace of hearts and the top club. He naturally figured on four clubs to his right, and took a chance that Z held the

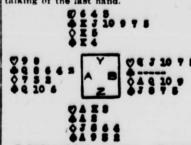
king of hearts, so he led a small heart to dummy's queen. This allowed Z to make four spade tricks.

Had B led the club, A would have made the ten and led a heart, because another club would have lost a trick, as the ace of hearts would have gone to hearts would have gone to

Here is a hand on which four tables went same and three did not, and the reason the three did not was the very first card played from the declarer's hand. While the situation is simple, and might be obvious to the seasoned player, it is instructive, showing as it does the the deck inquired why the other had cashed in so suddenly.

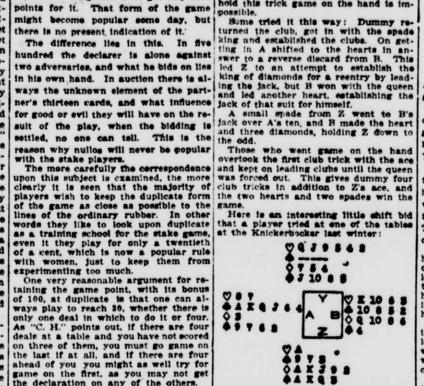
"Well," said the other, "I cashed in long o' the cashin' in bein still good.

"Too many persons are in the habit of postponing their examinations until the postponing their examinations until they have taken the first trick and turned it



Z dealt and bid no trump. All passed and A led the four of clubs, which dummy covered with the nine, in case B held the queen. If dummy is allowed to hold this trick game on the hand is im-

possible.
Some tried it this way: Dummy re-



on three of them, you must go game on the last if at all, and if there are four ahead of you you might as well try for game on the first, as you may not get the declaration on any of the others.

Finally it is undoubtedly true that having a variable goal, depending on the contract and the doubling. It is assisted the same cards, the same declaration and the same opening lead that gave the game to a stronger player at another table.

If these hands are examined in the trays after a duplicate match it will usually be found that there is some trays after a duplicate match it will usually be found that there is some particular trick, some turning point in the play, at which the paths divide. The expert has taken the only road that led to game. Either the average players have taken the wrong road or they never saw the other one. The latter is usually the case.

It is equally true when the situation is it reversed and the expert is on the defensive instead of the attack that there is some point at which the medicare is some poin

The only consolation A found for his venture into the shoals of shifting bids was the score for four honors in one hand as an offset to being set for \$99 points. He might have saved half of this but for Z's management of the trumps.

trumps.
Y opened with the heart queen, B covered and Z won, leading the trump, which went to dummy's hand. Dummy led the spade and Z led another trump. This A won, and ruffed durmy with a spade. Another heart was intended to put Y in, which it did, as Z carefully refused to trump it, discarding the nime of diamonds, which induced Y to lead a diamond, and allowed Z to lead another trump.

ether trump.

This left Y with the major tenace in hearts over B, so that the only remaining tricks were the three top trumps in A's hand. If A could have sanarated all

Here is a case in which the shift bid worked out very well, thanks to some faulty bidding on the part of the adversaries. The hand was played in

\$A # ! • • • V

FIRST CATCH YOUR RABBIT.

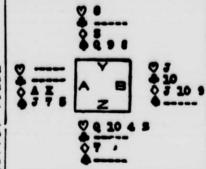
This may look like taking a long the straight on account of the greater

PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN' READERS TO SOLVE

Knights Tours and Checkers Hot Weather Puzzles.

Bridge problem No. 389 is typical of a position that frequently comes up in actual play at the tall end of a hand. It is evident that the declarer must win one more trick, but if he can pick In many hands the adversaries could save this extra trick if they gave the situation closer attention.

As a rule, the trick can be say judicious discarding and good players pride themselves on keeping the right card; but in the problem the extra trick is saved by avoiding the lead. Here is the distribution :



and B are to prevent T and Z from

only.

But if Z starts with the queen of hearts, A must be careful to get rid of one of his top diamonds. If Z follows with another heart, A gets rid of the other diamond, so that B shall have a clear field for the three diamonds in his hand after he ruffs the second

heart lead.

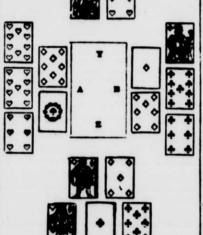
Several correspondents suggested that if Z opened with the diamond, A could lead a spade, and B could allow Y to win it, discarding the heart jack. Then when Y led the heart and B trumped, A could discard the diamond. discard the diamond.

But this is incomplete, as T may return the spade, so as to prevent the diamond discard by A, and the discard becomes unnecessary. If T returns the best spade, B trumps and the spade jack is good. If T returns a small spade, B passes it up to A's jack. There are two ways to defeat the diamond opening.

ing.

Here is a het weather problem from a composer who is to be handled gingerly on the coldest days, as there is almost always a sting hidden away among the cards when he arranges them. BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 891.





There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want four tricks against any defence.

The distribution of the cards is as fol-

no clubs.

B has the queen, nine, six of clubs, see and seven of diamonds; no hearts or Z has the jack of hearts, ace and eight of clubs, jack and five of diamonds; no

CHECKER ENDINGS.

This is not a second solution key move is the same. Here is Mr. Ly-man's idea of the win for white: 32-28

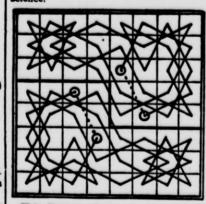
As before, black has an alternative.
He may play 24—27 for his first move, and then 19—16 wins for white. "Nareik" did not see this solution even after he was notified that the problem was

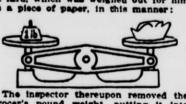
Here is an improvement on one of W. J. Wood's positions, the changes being made in order to give the student a wider choice in his line of attack, rendering the correct solution less obvious. The losing side is also strengthened, giving him four men and four kings against five men and only two kings.

than 170,000 such calls were made and responded to by the operators, and not a single cent was paid directly for the service, for no charge is made unless a connection is made at the same time.

PROBLEM NO. 391. CHECKERS. By William J. Wood.

swer to this problem of Ernest Bergholt's, one of the most symmetrical and at-tractive being the following, which is the one originally intended by the composer.
This should be a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject of knight's tours, which has engaged the attention of many prominent men of





The inspector thereupon removed the grocer's pound weight, putting it into the same scale with the lard, and placed the grocer's two pound weight in the



This being satisfactory so far, he next transferred both the lard and the weight to the other end of the scales and put a standard testing two pound weight of

MAN who was being fitted for a pair of shoes in a Harlem store displayed the masculine trait of impatience when shopping.

quickly as posible After the clerk had tried a shoe on

spare?" inquired the clerk. "I would like to try on the shoe for the left permitting my customers to leave."
"Tut, tut!" replied the customer.

"Ah, that's where you are mistaken," replied the clerk. "Many persons think the same as you, that as long as the right shoe fits the left will fit too. That's a fallacy, however, "The left foot is usually larger than the right. This I am in duty bound

few more minutes on the transaction the clerk tried the shoe on

TS a mighty easy thing when your watch runs down or you doubt its accuracy, or when the housewife wants to be certain as to the exact minute her dinner should go into the oven of the gas range to call up the telephone central and ask the time It's such a little thing to do, and it costs nothing, that many have falle into the habit of reaching for the desk telephone instead of looking out of the window at a tower clock which may

"How many calls do you have a day for the time?" an official of the telephone company was asked a few "Don't know. Never thought of it Ought to be a thousand or so, I guess.

I'll just have a record kept for a

CHESS FOR PLAYER, LOVER AND STUDENT

Most Successful Summer Meeting at Buffalo.

during the days from July 24 to July 29 under the auspices of the Buffalo Consistory Chess Club at Buffalo, proved to be one of the most successful af-fairs of its kini, and this in spite of the fact that the proposed international match between Canadian and New York the fact that the proposed international match between Canadian and New York State players did not come off. This failure to bring off an interesting contest was doubly redeemed by placing on the programme an amateur championship tournament, quite a novel feature. It will be seen from the appended scores the boy player, Harold E. Jennings of Rochester, who made such a brilliant debut at the summer meeting held at Utica last year, carried away the first prize and the championship and his achievement is all the greater inasmuch as there was a field of verry experienced and much older mea. Jennings is only 17 years of age and still a student at the Rochester High School. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: D. Francis Searle of Rome, president; Charles Broughton of Stapleton, first vice-president; George N. Cheney of Syracuse, second vice-president; Archibald McMartin, Johnstown, treasurer, and Dr. R. S. J. Deniford of Buffalo, secretary. Commander-in-Chief George W. Staples of the Euffalo Consist. ory was elected an honorary member.
The Class A tournament was won by V. Guenther of Buffalo; the Class B by D. N. McMichael of Buffalo, and the Class C tournament by George C.
Fox of Hartford, Conn., while Monroe county carried away the Genesee Cup Trophy. The results in detail follow:
Amateur Championship—H. E. Jen-

Clubs are trumps and B are to prevent I and Z from and B are to prevent I and Z from the solution depends upon A's getting out of his partner's way. There is no possibility of keeping Z from winning a possibility of keeping Z from winning a heart trick. The problem is to prevent I from making a spada.

If Z leads a diamond, putting A in, the solution is simple, as A will make his two winning diamonds at once and B will then trump a spade, winning the fourth trick with the third diamond. Then he loses the inevitable heart trick only.

But if Z starts with the queen of But if Z starts with the queen of I ard, which was weighed out for him in a piece of paper, in this manner:

County carried and E trophy. The results in detail follow:

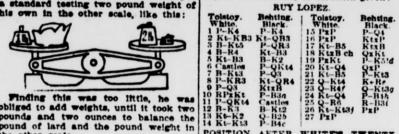
Amateur Championship—H, E. Jennings, 7½—2½; P. D. Crow and D. F. Searle, each 6—4; G. N. Cheney, 4—6; N. Weber, 3½—6½; D. W. Waller, over the diagram and then join the four its that if we cancel the two dotted lines at right and interesting part of the arrangement to the diagram and then join the four circles by introducing lines at right and interesting part of the diagram and then join the four circles by introducing lines at right and interesting part of the dotted lines, we shall find a complete bisymmetrical reentrant tour of the whole 42 squares.

An inspector of weights and measures went into a store and asked for a pound of lard, which was weighed out for him lines and the properties of the dotted lines, we shall find a complete bisymmetrical reentrant tour of the whole 42 squares.

An inspector of weights and measures went into a store and asked for a pound of lard, which was weighed out for him lines of the dotted lines and interesting part of the arrangement is that if we cancel the two dotted lines and interesting part of the arrangement is that if we cancel the two dotted lines and interesting part of the arrangement is that if ye cancel the two dotted lines and interesting part of the arrangement is that if ye cancel the two dotted lines and interesting part of the arr

The complete summary of Capa- as there is not a trick in the suit that the Cuban the whole hand for that matter. blanca's last tour shows that the Cuban champion played a total of 419 games, of which he won 404, drew 10 and lost only 5. These losses were all incurred in the West, 2 at Portland out of 64 played, 1 at Colorado Springs out of 46. 1 out of 43 at Seattle and 1 out of 16 at San Diego. At the last named place Capablanca left himself open to a mate on the move after he had won a piece for three pawns.

The score of another game from the book shortly to be published and played by correspondence between Count S. L. Tolstoy, a son of the famous Russian author Count Leo Tolstoy, and the Riga expert Carl Behting is herewith given:



SEVENTH MOVE



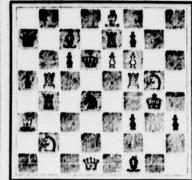
P-Kt4 | 32 P-Kt5| R-KR6 | QaP ch | 83 KaBm | RaP ch | R-R3 | 35 R-K6 | Q-R6 ch | R-R3 | 85 R-K6 | Q-R6 ch | R-R3 | R-K6 | Q-R6 ch | R-R3 | R-K6 | Q-R6 ch | R-K6 | Q-R6 | Entries for the Rice memorial interna-

PROBLEM NO 668-MOTTO: "VIVE I

Black-10 Pieres. PIN T

曲 1 图 1 图 A 35 0 White-12 Pieces

PROBLEM NO. 669-NO MOTTO. Black-12 Pieces



SOLUTIONS TO NO. 686 1. B R. P B4; 2. Q KKt2, &c.
1. B R. P B3; 2. Q B2, &c.
1. B R. KxP: 2. Q B2, &c.
W. Mason maintains that this proble unsound, the B being able to move or different squares to fit the mate.

solvers are of the same opinion. SOLUTION TO NO. 687.

Benjamin Eventhal, New York city;
Henry F. Mowat, Yonkers, N. Y.; John
L. Lequin, East Orange, N. J.
Solution to 635 received from N. Stern,
Brooklyn N. Y. N. J. Lane, New York
city; Marcus L. Ward, Erle, Pa.
L. R.: New York city.
L. R.: New York city.
Additional solutions received to 634 and
635 from Alfonso Martinez, Havana, Cuba;
James Roberts, Philadeiphia, Pa.; to 645
from Henry F. Mowat, Yonkers, N. Y.;
Dan A. Millard, Pittsfield, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE P. L. King, Burlington, Vt., the author of Problem No. 664, writes, stating that if 1. QxKt Black interposes Q and no mate; if Kt—B4, RxKt. &c. There is also a defence to 1. Kt—Kt2. Sblvers should again tackle the position, the author maintaining that 1. P—Q4 is the only solution to the problem in question. As was generally expected, the annual midsummer meeting of the New York State Chess Association, which was held

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. A. L. M. says: Dealer bids a diamond. Second hand passes and third hand goes no trump. When the fourth hand passes the dealer bids two diamonds on the theory that if his partner has a no trumper outside the diamonds the dealer should be able to go game with the trump suit. He holds six to the ace queen lack, five clubs to six to the ace queen jack, five clubs to the ace king ten, and two small hearts; no spades. Is this correct at no score?

This is a hand on which most players would bid two or three diamonds in the first place, so as to shut out any major suit bids. The up to date player bids no trump on hands of this character. Whitehead" says any six card mine suft that one lead will establish, with two reentries, is a no trumper. The safe game is the diamond for trumps, of course, but it should so game at no trumps if laid down as the dummy.

S. L. W. says: The dealer passes, second hand bids no trumps and the third hand bids two no trumps, fourth hand passing. The dealer has passed originally with seven hearts to the jack, ace and two small diamonds, one spade and two clubs. What should he do now?

Bid three hearts. The declaration of wo no trumps is the old way of showing what is now usually shown by the double of a one trick bid; a desire to have the partner name his best suit and play the hand, with dummy's strength lying over the alleged no trumper on the declarer's left.

M. L. C. says: Dealer bids no trump, which second hand doubles. Third hand holds five hearts to the king jack ten; five diamonds to the jack ten nine and three small clubs, on which he bids two hearts. Fourth hand bids two spades and the dealer and second hand pass. Third hand now bids three diamonds. Is this bidding correct? No score. It is usual to pass the buck when the

Balley, 5—7; C. F. Seikmann, 4—5; G. Second hand doubles, waiting to see what L. Hodgson, 3½—8½; E. B. Rew, 3—9.

Genesee Cup Tournament—Monroe County 4. Onondaga 0; Erie 2½— Monroe, 1½; Erie, 2½, Onondaga, 1½; Totals—Monroe, 5½—2½; Erie, 5—3; Onondaga, 1½—6½. second hand doubles, waiting to see what justification for bidding three diamonds as there is not a trick in the suit nor in

score. The first is Law 48a, which fixes trick. The second is Law 7, which says that the partners who take thirteen tricks score 100 for grand slam, but does not say that they must be the de clarer and his partner. Why the penalties for under tricks are not in their proper place, in the section entitled 'Scoring" is not clear. The correct score in the case cited is 450 for the adversaries of the declarer, and aces as

N. W. B. says: We take twice the trick score as bonus, Hamilton Club style, instead of the 100 for a game. A doubles three spades and Z makes it. What does he score? Honors as held of

The general scheme seems to be to take twice what is scored below the line If this is 54 the bonus is 108, and in addition to this there is the 50 for a fulfilled contract that had been doubled.

P. P. A. cays: Dealer bids no trump. This is passed up to fourth hand, who bids two spades, which the dealer passes. Second hand holds only one small spade, but has five diamonds to the ace king, four hearts to the ace and king, two small in clubs. What should Bid three diamonds, simply to warr

his partner that he has no spades. His partner must have something besides spades, and if it is not diamonds he will bid whatever it is. If he is all spades, he can afford to go back to that suit.

THE SUN stating that The Whist Club had abolished the 250 for the rubber and authorized a small bonus for each game. Is this correct?

No such statement was ever made in THE SUN. The change referred to was for duplicate auction only and aboltshee the rubber itself, not the 250. This made it necessary to give each game an equity, formerly 125, now 100 only. The changes were made by the Knickerbocker Whist Club, as The Whist Club has declined to make any laws for auction in duplicate.

N. F. P. says: A bets that the lead-of an ace denies the king. We want to know if this is the latest "dope." There is nothing late about it. That has been the rule in all forms of whist for a hundred years or more. To lead the ace first and follow with the king is

Poker, J. M. M. says: In a recent game in Cleveland, in which they play big and little dogs, one player had a royal flush and the other had a big dog Which of these is the better

A big dog has one of the sequence missing, so it is ace high and nine low. When played it beats a straight, but loses to a flush. If it is a flush it cards in sequence and suit than it is to get five in suit when any one of the four intermediate cards may be missing. For this reason, the royal flush beats

Ecarte. M. C. V. asks the difference between the vole and the jeux de regle at

ing or refusing carrds. The vole is a

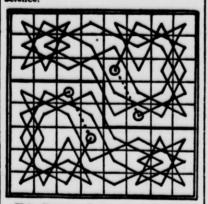
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Black to play and win.

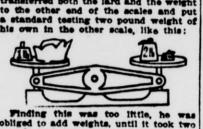
The distribution of the pieces is:
Black men on 5, 6, 8, 24 and 27; kings on 12 and 13. White men on 15, 22, 25

THE ENIGHT'S TOUR

A number of interesting and ingenious variations were sent to THE SUN in an-







sound of lard and the pound weight in Position AFTER WHITE'S TWENTY What was the actual weight of the lard and how much out of the way were the grocer's weights?

LEFT FOOT IS LARGER.

his right foot the customer ejaculated. "Yes, that's all right. Fits fine. Don't bother to try on the other one. Wrap them up. I'll take them along with "Haven't you a few moments to

foot. My motto is to satisfy before 28 Q-R6k "As long as the right shoe fits all right K's obvious that the left shoe will also fit. What's the use of wasting time?"

to explain to my customers. In fact I try to persuade them to permit me to Problem No. 389 was arranged by Thereik" as a study for beginners, there first trying on the right." So the customer decided to spend a

> THEY WANT TO KNOW THE TIME.

have the reputation of always being

single day and see what it is, for He did. Word was sent to every exchange to have the operators kee tab on the calls that were merely for "The time, please," in all the five boroughs of the city for a full twentyfour hours. It amazed the official and everybody else to whom the result was exhibited. In a single day not fewer

White to play and mate in ! moves.

exhibited. In a single day not fewer than 170,000 such calls were made and responded to by the operators, and not a single cent was paid directly for the service, for no charge is made unless a connection is made at the same time.

Solutions received to Nos. 686 and 687 between the vole and the jew this game.

N. Y. W. Mason, Rye, N. Y. John Bog ner, New York city: J. F. Burrill, New York city: Benjamin Zucker, New York city: Benjamin Zucker, New York city: Charles H. Pasternack, Hartford, conn.; James Roberts, Philadelphia, Pa.; grand cism, made in play.

There are two laws that affect this

course, and 54 below. But what is the bonus? Some say 54, some say 108.

more of the suit and want to ruff the third round. When the king is led and wins the partner can place the ace. That is why the king is led first from ace and king with others

a hig dog flush.

The jeux de regle are maxima for ask-